

NCDOT Rail Division

The Rail Report



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CSX's Newest Intermodal Terminal Opens in Rocky Mount

A ribbon cutting ceremony for the Carolina Connector intermodal terminal, or CCX, took place on Nov. 18.

The 330-acre site allows trucks to bring cargo containers to a rail yard, where they are transferred to trains for transport. This helps regional industries distribute their products nationwide and spur business development locally and beyond.

Representatives of NCDOT, CSX Corporation, the Carolinas Gateway Partnership and Governor Cooper attended the ribbon cutting ceremony.

"The Carolina Connector will help us address the supply chain problems by getting

goods from one place to the next," said Governor Cooper. "It's going to help us create 1,500 jobs. The Department of Transportation did a great job in working with CSX to make this happen. This is going to be great for North Carolina's economic future, not only for eastern North Carolina but the entire state."

Located just five miles off I-95 and 60 miles northeast of Raleigh and the Triangle, the terminal will provide convenient truck access to local and regional markets. Shippers will benefit from its strategic location on the CSX mainline.

The state-of-the-art terminal features three wide-span, zero-emission electric cranes with a lift capacity of 110,000 containers per year. Most of the container handling is automatic, with only the initial lift and final placement controlled remotely by operators inside the terminal building. Automated automated gate technology accelerates the pace of customer deliveries and reduces emissions by up to 90% by minimizing truck idle time.

Located five miles off of I-95 in Rocky Mount, the terminal is positioned to reach more than five million consumers within a 120-mile radius. This includes Raleigh and the growing Triangle area. The Carolinas Gateway Partnership is working with current and potential businesses interested in creating or expanding business opportunities in Edgecombe County, the City of Rocky Mount and the towns of Nashville and Tarboro.

The CCX Terminal was built in partnership with CSX, the Carolinas Gateway Partnership and the NC Department of Transportation.



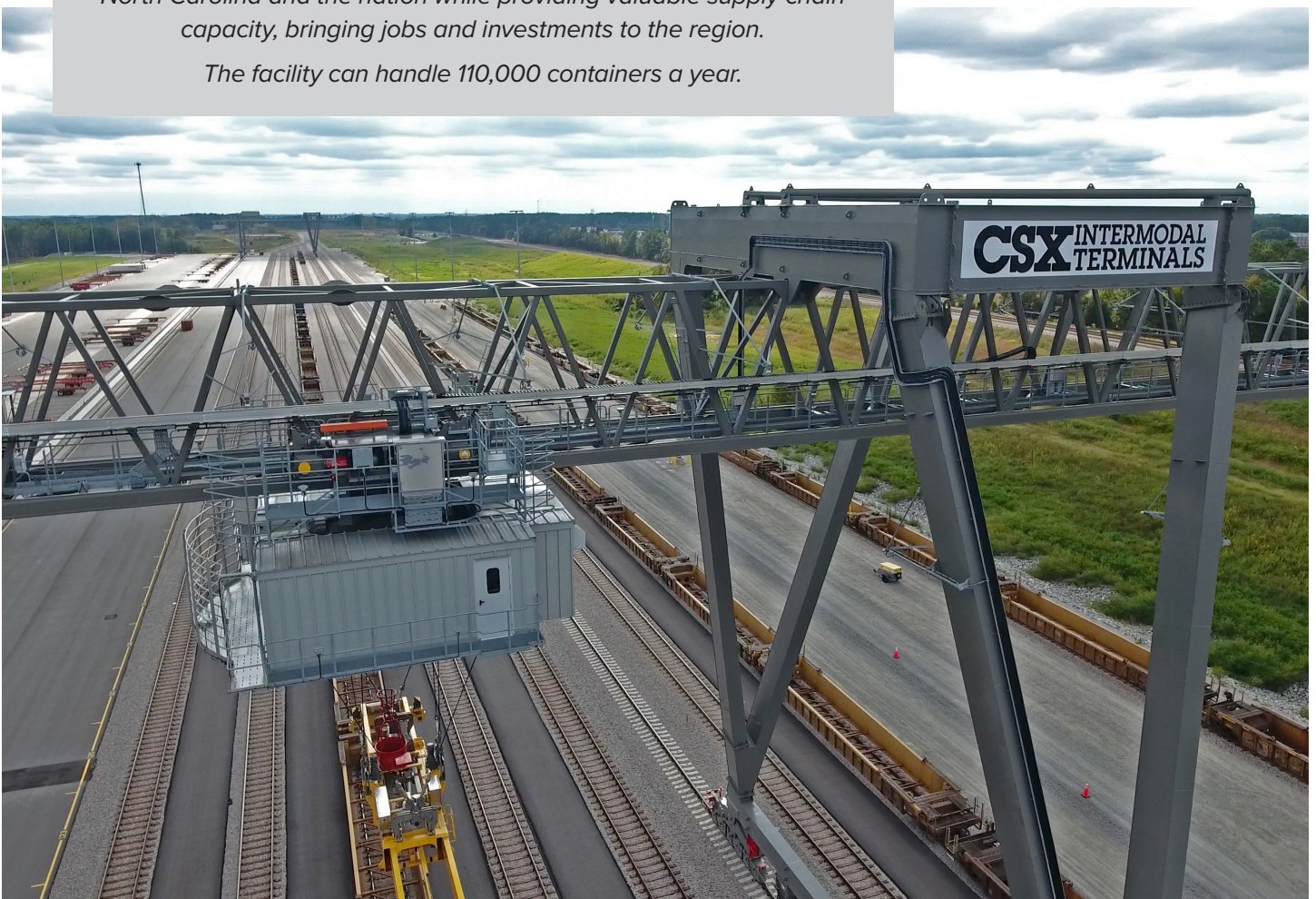
Gov. Cooper, center, was joined by (L to R) Carolinas Gateway Partnership President Norris Tolson, Rocky Mount Mayor Sandy Roberson, CSX Executive Vice President Nathan Goldman, NCDOT Board of Transportation member Melvin Mitchell, NCDOT Secretary Eric Boyette, and Rep. Shelly Willingham (Dist. 23). [Click here to view video from the event.](#)





As a better, faster and more cost effective way for suppliers to reach consumers, the CCX Intermodal Terminal is moving goods throughout North Carolina and the nation while providing valuable supply chain capacity, bringing jobs and investments to the region.

The facility can handle 110,000 containers a year.



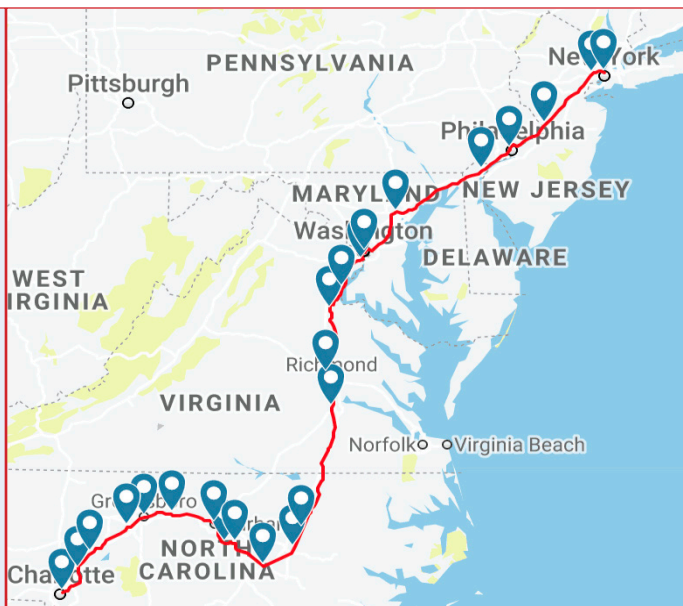
Need to head up north?

The *Carolinian* stops in 11 cities between Rocky Mount, NC and New York!

Among them...

- Richmond, VA
- Washington, DC
- Baltimore, MD

Learn more at ncbytrain.org!



Children Under 12 Ride for Half Price Every Day!



Make memories and save money when you take the kids on a journey they'll never forget. They'll experience the wonder of the train, while you enjoy a trip without airport baggage fees or traffic jams.

One child age 2-12 can receive a [50 percent discount](#) on the lowest available adult rail fare on most Amtrak trains with each paying adult (age 18+).

If any additional child per adult is traveling, reservations must be made for that child as an "Adult."

Additional Details

- The discount does not apply to children over age 12 who are traveling alone.
- Not valid for travel on certain Amtrak Thruway connecting services.
- Additional restrictions may apply.

Stumped for a gift? Give the gift of adventure!

Pick up an [NC By Train Gift Card](#) for the budding adventurer to jump-start their trip or help that frequent traveler check destinations off their list. Encourage your favorite travel buddy or add it to your own wish list and drop the hint to your friends and family. No matter who they are, they'll love your thoughtfulness.

- Choose an amount up to \$500.
- No fees.
- Never expires.
- Email or send through the mail.
- Redeem for travel online, in the app, by phone or in the station. (May not be used for onboard purchases)



Applications Open for Short Line Railroads Infrastructure Grants



Short line railroad presidents and general managers have been notified that the Rail Division is accepting grant applications for the Short Line Infrastructure Assistance Program (SIAP) under the Freight Rail & Rail Crossing Safety Improvement (FRRCSI) Fund.

The Rail Division funds projects based on eligibility, need, cost/benefit, and grant awards are determined based on comparative project rankings. The Freight Rail and Rail Crossing Safety Improvement Program was established in 2013 by the General Assembly. In accordance with the general statute, FRRCSI funding provided to short line railroads requires a 50% match from the railroad.

Since the beginning of the program in 2014, FRRCSI has upgraded over 120 miles of railroad, modernized more than 110 bridges, improved over 1,000 railroad/highway crossings and supported the creation over 1,200 jobs.

Aberdeen, Carolina and Western Railroad Crossing Improved in Stanly County

Our featured crossing this month is on the Aberdeen Carolina and Western Railroad in Stanly County. This project improved a double track crossing on N.C. 200/Stanly Street in Stanfield. The asphalt around both tracks was failing, leaving voids by the rail seal and creating a rough crossing. New rail seal was installed, and the crossing repaved to give the residents of Stanfield a safer and smoother ride..

The Aberdeen Carolina and Western Railroad, NCDOT Stanly County maintenance, and the NCDOT Rail Division partnered on this project.



**134 NC rail crossings
have been improved by the
FRRCSI Fund.**



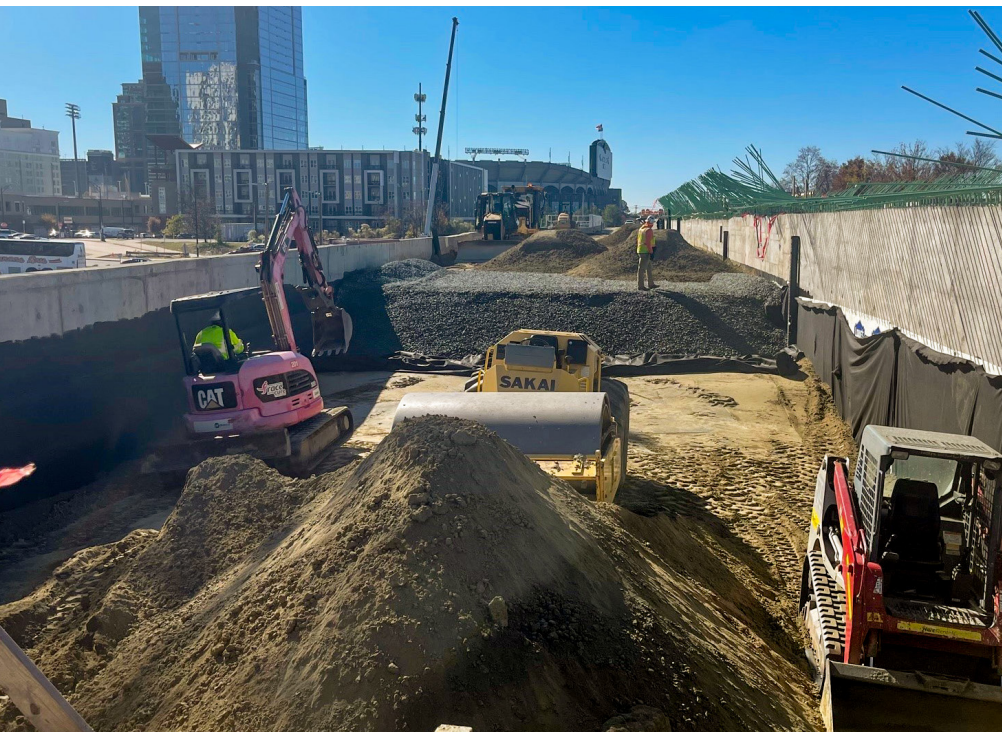
Stanly Street crossing before improvements

Stanly Street crossing after improvements

Charlotte Gateway Station – Phase I Construction Update



Pouring baggage ramp



Grading for station tracks next to the concourse and platform

The Rail Division is leading the planning, design and construction of Charlotte Gateway Station Phase 1. The City of Charlotte is progressing the effort for Phase 2 with developer Charlotte Gateway Partners for the large mixed use development and station. The Phase I project is targeted for completion in 2023. The scope includes building bridges to support passenger rail tracks, a center island level-boarding platform and concourse, plus railroad track and signals.

Charlotte Gateway Station – Phase I Construction Update (continued)



Completed grading and structures at north end of project



View of concourse and platform construction